

Visits to Schools

As an elected body, the School Committee recognizes the overarching importance of maintaining clarity of the governance line in school district oversight and the need to minimize potential disruptions to the teaching and learning process.

To balance the need to gather input from internal stakeholders with the unavoidable conflicts that can be created by impromptu visits to schools and departments, School Committee Members will schedule all school and department visits through the Superintendent's Office, providing reasonable notice and framing their visits according to one of the following objectives:

1. Observation of the impact of a current policy.

The Committee Member will identify the relevant policy and work collaboratively with the Superintendent and/or designee to design the visit to meet the intended goals, including the date, time, location, and participants.

2. Meeting with a school or district leader.

The Committee Member will work collaboratively with the Superintendent to schedule the meeting at a time of least disruption to the school or department, recognizing a preference for a time outside of the normal work day. The Superintendent and/or designee will join the School Committee Member for these meetings to promote clarity of the governance/management line and ensure a coordinated communication channel between the full elected body and district employees.

3. General listening session or open forum with staff.

General listening sessions with employees or employee groups will be scheduled outside of the school day. If a Committee Member chooses to use a school site for a listening session, he/she will notify the Superintendent and follow the standard facility use protocol to avoid any potential scheduling conflicts. To protect the privacy rights of all students and employees, Committee Members will not engage in listening sessions which relate to specific and/or identifiable student or personnel matters, and as a matter of transparency, Committee Members will remind all stakeholder groups that all personnel matters will be referred to the Superintendent.

4. Attend a scheduled school function.

School Committee Members are encouraged to attend as many school functions, assemblies, and public events as possible, including school performances, extra-curricular competitions, and community presentations. In order to effectively govern the school district, it is understood that School Committee Members must be visible and active members of the school community.